Closing of Public Sector Fertilizer Undertakings

†4264. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently taken a decision to close fertilizer production undertakings in public sector and to sell them to private sector/to privatise them;

(b) if so, what is the justification for taking such a decision;

(c) to what extent the steps to be taken in this direction would adversely affect the target production of National Fertilizer units; and

(d) to what extent the private sector has been considered capable for production of fertilizers and to meet the indigenous demand/consumption of fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) Action with regard to Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in fertilizer sector is to be taken keeping in view the declared policy of the Government of India towards the public sector which is to restructure and revive potentially viable PSUs and close down those (PSUs) which cannot be revived while protecting the interests of workers.

(c) It is envisaged that the proposal to disinvest 51% of the shareholding of Government of India in National Fertilizers Ltd., would not affect production of fertilizer by this company.

(d) Fertilizer industry was delicensed in 1991. Entrepreneurs in the private sector are free to set up fertilizer project subject to environmental clearance. Private Sector Projects in fertilizer are making good production to meet the demand/consumption of fertilizers produced in the country and are contributing over 36% to the total urea production in the country.

Gap Betwen the Demand and Production of Fertilizer

†4265. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any national level study on the rising demand of urea and other fertilizers in the country;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.